

## LATE TESTIMONY

My name is Frank Commendador and I am a member of Friends of Puna's Future. For the past decade Puna District has been the fastest growing in the state. Over 80,000 house lots were subdivided in 1960 apparently without thought that anyone would actually move there. Well it's happened. Close to 40,000 residents.

Those Big Island subdivisions have approximately 750 miles of substandard roads. That's a lot of miles of road.... almost half of the total publicly assessable roads in the county. It is a fact that the tens of thousands of residents living on these roads are generating a substantial amount of Fuel Revenue Tax. They pay this tax for every mile they drive on county owned and maintained roads and they pay this tax for every mile they drive on 750 miles of private subdivision roads. It becomes apparent that for quite a while these private subdivisions have been subsidizing the county owned roads. And that's okay. County roads are used by everyone. The private subdivisions are used by everyone too. They are not gated communities. By law these roads are open to the public. These roads are also absolutely needed for Public Safety.... ambulance, fire and police.

HB 1626 is simple. It will grant only the County of Hawaii permission to find a reasonable solution to a unique County of Hawaii problem. A low cost / high return solution to helping the private road maintenance corporations improve road conditions. I would like to see all these roads have a reasonable traveling speed of 25 miles per hour. So of them can do that now. Too many can't. It will mostly come down to buying gravel.

It is a public safety issue. It also is a good example of what President Barak Obama described, in the State of the Union speech this January, as effective public/private partnership.... where citizens and government work together to achieve a solution.

Please vote aye on HB 1626